



SEPT. 18, 2008

HEALTH UPDATE

TO: North Dakota Physicians
North Dakota Infection Control Nurses
North Dakota Laboratory Directors
Local Public Health Unit Administrators

FROM: Michelle Feist, West Nile Virus Surveillance Coordinator
Tracy K. Miller, MPH, West Nile Virus Program Manager

RE: West Nile Virus and Arbovirus Testing

DATE: September 18, 2008

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) would like to thank you for your efforts during the 2008 West Nile virus (WNV) season. The NDDoH's arbovirus surveillance program will be suspended for the winter months on **October 1, 2008**.

Free laboratory testing for WNV on eligible patients will be offered through September 30, 2008. Exceptions may be made after consultation with Disease Control staff and with Mike Trythall, virology supervisor, Division of Laboratory Services. Arboviral testing will continue to be offered as a fee-for-service. Cost of testing is \$60 for WNV testing alone or \$120 for the arboviral panel. If you have any questions regarding testing, please contact the laboratory at 701.328.6272.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michelle Feist or Tracy Miller at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.

cc: Kirby Kruger, Director
Myra Kosse, Director, Division of Laboratory Services

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.
- Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.